



Topic of the Speech:

Determining the environmental impact and carbon footprint of up-cycled PVC flex banners using lifecycle analysis and understanding stakeholders' perspectives

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Dr. Prabhuraj Venkatraman (Prabhu) is an accomplished expert in technical textiles and a Chartered Fellow of the Textile Institute (CText FTI). His area of expertise encompasses the design and development of functional apparel and high-performance textiles. He conducts comprehensive research in product development and evaluation, with a particular emphasis on technical textiles and sustainable fashion practices.

Recognized as a pioneer, he has developed bio-functional finishing techniques for fabrics, notably achieving antimicrobial properties using plant-based nano-emulsions. He has also designed self-sanitising face coverings and led innovative initiatives, including diabetic socks engineered to measure shear force. Furthermore, he has been involved in the production of biopolymers (alginate) sourced from renewable materials and has advanced an environmentally sustainable method for denim fading and patterning through CO₂ laser technology. His research also examines the potential of Ugandan bark cloth as a sustainable fashion textile and its applications in healthcare, specifically in wound dressing. He is dedicated to evaluating the environmental impact of fashion materials through lifecycle analysis and carbon footprint assessments, as well as promoting the upcycling of fashion items derived from post-consumer waste.

As a Senior Lecturer, Prabhu teaches product design and development to both undergraduate and postgraduate students across various academic disciplines. His commitment extends beyond teaching; he actively mentors research students engaged in MPhil, PhD, and MSc projects at Manchester Metropolitan University (MMU). He has a proven track record of managing externally funded projects, industry-funded Knowledge Transfer Partnerships (KTPs), and industry consulting endeavour, as well as successfully supervising postgraduate students. Prabhu has guided five PhD students and four Master by Research candidates as the primary supervisor and is currently supervising three PhD students and one Master by Research project. In his capacity as the Doctoral College Department Lead (DCDL) for the Manchester Fashion Institute, he plays a critical role in postgraduate admissions and progression, aligning with the Institute's strategy to enhance the PGR community.